

Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 AID-05 /089 W

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P R 011634Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1428

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS LUSAKA 0569

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: SPECIAL COMMISSION TO INQUIRE IN CHITEPO DEATH

REF: LUSAKA 562

1. IN STATEMENT BROADCAST EVENING MARCH 31, PRESIDENT KAUNDA RESPONDED SHARPLY TO ZIMBABWE NATIONALIST AND OTHER AFRICAN CRITICS OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S RECENT ROUNDUP OF ZIMBABWE FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN ZAMBIA FOR INVESTIGATION INTO MARCH 18 ASSASSINATION OF ANC/ZANU LEADER HERBERT CHITEPO (REFTEL). PRESIDENT CATEGORICALLY REJECTED NOTION SOVEREIGN AND INDEPENDENT ZAMBIA SHOULD NOT CARRY OUT FULL INVESTIGATION INTO MURDER COMMITTED ON ITS SOIL. INVESTIGATION WILL BE PURSUED UNTIL CULPRIT IS IDENTIFIED, ALTHOUGH THERE NO QUESTION THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHITEPO DEATH ULTIMATELY "RESTS SQUARELY" ON SHOULDERS
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OF IAN SMITH WHO CREATED UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS WHICH LEFT

OPEN ONLY WAY OF ARMED VIOLENCE IN PROCESS OF WHICH CHITEPO LOST HIS LIFE. DETENTION OF ZIMBABWE NATIONALISTS IS JUSTIFIED AS AMONG THEIR RANKS ARE SMITH AND "IMPERIALIST" AGENTS, COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES, AND REACTIONARIES. ZAMBIAN COMMITMENT TO AND SACRIFICES FOR ZIMBABWEAN CAUSE WELL-KNOWN. SUGGESTION THAT GRZ IS FRUSTRATING THAT CAUSE BY INVESTIGATING CHITEPO MURDER NOT ONLY SHOWS NO REGARD FOR THAT LATE PROMINENT LEADER BUT IS AN INSULT ADDED TO INJURIES WHICH ZAMBIA HAS SUFFERED IN ITS UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE.

2. PRESIDENT THEN ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION TO ESTABLISH SPECIAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO CHITEPO DEATH. MEMBERS OF SPECIAL COMMISSION WILL BE DRAWN FROM UNIP CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND FROM CABINET. SOME MEMBERS OF OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE AND ITS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AS WELL AS REPS OF GOVERNMENTS OF BOTSWANA, ZAIRE, CONGO, MALAWI, TANZANIA, AND FRELIMO ARE ALSO INVITED TO JOIN COMMISSION. ANYONE IN ZAMBIA, RHODESIA, OR ELSEWHERE URGED TO PRESENT ANY EVIDENCE HE MAY HAVE TO THIS COMMISSION. IN PARTICULAR, THOSE NATIONALIST LEADERS IN ZIMBABWE AND THEIR COMPATRIOTS ELSEWHERE WHO FEEL MOST STRONGLY ABOUT ZAMBIAN ACTIONS ARE URGED TO COME TO ZAMBIA AND GIVE COMMISSION THEIR FACTS. ZAMBIA WILL SUBMIT FULL REPORT OF COMMISSION FINDINGS TO OAU.

3. COMMENT FOLLOWS SEPTEL.
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